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LS-8417

OGC REVIEW COMPLETED

15 February 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Intelligence)

SUBJECT: Comments on NBC 5508, Proposed Paper on Admission to the United States on Certain European Non-Official Temporary Visitors, Excludable Under Existing Law

1. The subject paper offers no legal implications which are the responsibility of this office. However, I should like to make a brief comment of a general nature, for this Agency does have an interest in the policies concerned.

2. Adoption of the policy proposed might lead to further relaxation of the restrictions on travel by foreigners in the U.S.S.R. Such relaxation would have obvious advantages from the standpoint of this Agency, and therefore the policy proposed, as a minimum step, seems to be clearly in the interest of the United States. Moreover, failure to liberalize restrictions on entry into the United States of Soviet citizens might lead to retaliation on the part of the U.S.S.R. by the reimposition of more stringent controls applied to Americans in the Soviet Union.

3. From the standpoint of Agency responsibility in the field of psychological warfare, any return, however small, towards the principles of freedom of thought, speech, and action on which this country was founded seems not only desirable but also necessary. That serious erosion of these principles has occurred is evident from the arguments presented in the subject paper, presumably seriously, against adoption of the proposed policy. These arguments include the proposition that the United States should decline to participate in athletic competitions with Soviet athletes for fear of being beaten, fear of mob violence in the United States against Soviet visitors and apparent acceptance, as useful and necessary, of the current unenforced restrictions on travel in the United States by Soviet visitors. From the psychological warfare standpoint, therefore, it is essential that the United States at least appear to live by the principles it seeks to sell in the uncommitted parts of the world. In this connection, it should be noted that too stringent provisions for police supervision of visitors might well tend to neutralize the advantages and the purpose of the proposed policy.

4. In short, the policies proposed as a minimum step appear to be very much in the national interest.

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Subject signed

Assistant General Counsel